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~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF)~~ SUBJ: PRESIDENT DUARTE'S DESIRE TO HOLD IMPENDING
SENIOR OFFICER CHANGES TO A MINIMUM

Central Intelligence Agency

22 December 1985

Doc Number [REDACTED]

(b)(3) NatSecAct

SOURCE [REDACTED]

~~(S//NC/CIA-IUO/OC/NF)~~ DIST: 22 DECEMBER 1985

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: PRESIDENT DUARTE'S DESIRE TO HOLD IMPENDING SENIOR

OFFICER CHANGES TO A MINIMUM

DOI: [REDACTED]

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

(b)(1)

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TEXT: 1. AS OF MID-DECEMBER 1985, SALVADORAN PRESIDENT JOSE
NAPOLEON ((DUARTE)) HAD INFORMED THE ARMED FORCES HIGH COMMAND OF
HIS DESIRE TO HOLD SENIOR OFFICER TRANSFERS TO A MINIMUM IN THE
UPCOMING END-OF-YEAR TRADITIONAL TRANSFER CYCLE. DUARTE EXPLAINED
THAT THE FIRST COUPLE OF MONTHS IN 1986 ARE EXPECTED TO BE
ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT FOR THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT. HE CITED
THE PLANNED IMPOSITION OF ECONOMIC REFORMS IN JANUARY AND POSSIBLE
INCREASED LABOR UNION AGITATION EARLY IN 1986 AS REASONS FOR
NEEDING "EXTRA STABILITY" IN THE GOVERNMENT DURING THIS PERIOD.
DUARTE STATED THAT TOO MANY SENIOR CHANGES IN THE MILITARY AND
PUBLIC SECURITY SERVICE COMMANDS COULD LEAD TO UNWANTED UNCERTAINTIES
IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, BY LATE
FEBRUARY OR MARCH, INTERNAL CONDITIONS COULD HAVE SETTLED ENOUGH
TO PERMIT CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENTS THAN HE INITIALLY INTENDED TO
EFFECT ON 1 JANUARY.

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2. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO DELAY SENIOR
CHANGES IN THE ARMED FORCES COULD AGAIN BE REVISED BEFORE THE
1 JANUARY OFFICER TRANSFER LIST IS PUBLISHED. AS MATTERS NOW STAND,
HOWEVER, EVEN THOSE SENIOR OFFICERS WHO HAD EXPECTED TO BE TRANSFERRED

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ON 1 JANUARY--SUCH AS COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, COMMANDER OF THE 4TH BRIGADE, AND COLONEL OSCAR ((CASANOVA)) VEJAR, COMMANDER OF THE 2ND BRIGADE--WILL BE STAYING WITH THEIR UNITS AT LEAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS MORE. THE ONLY SENIOR ARMY TRANSFER THAT IS "SURE" AT THE MOMENT IS THE COMMANDER OF MILITARY DETACHMENT 7 IN AHUACHAPAN, COLONEL CARLOS ANDRES ((ARAUJO)) AGUIRRE, WHO WILL BE MOVING TO THE ARMED FORCES JOINT GENERAL STAFF AS THE NEW CHIEF OF LOGISTICS (C-IV), PERMITTING THE INCUMBENT, COLONEL AUGUSTO CANDELARIO ((MARAVILLA)) REYES, TO GO TO CHILE AS MILITARY ATTACHE.)

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